

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 14 and 17 are presently pending in this application, Claims 2, 12, 15 and 16 having been canceled, Claims 1, 3-7, 9 and 10 having been amended and Claim 17 having been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haeff et al. (U.S. Patent 3,760,417). However, Claims 2, 4, 6, 9 and 11 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Amended Claims 1, 3-7, 9 and 10 and new Claim 17 are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Applicants therefore submit that no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1 and 3-7 have been amended not to include means plus function recitations, to thereby preclude the application of 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

Claim 2, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, has been rewritten in independent form as independent Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Likewise, independent Claim 17 includes allowable features recited in Claim 2. Thus, Claim 17 is also believed to be allowable.

Claims 3-11, 13 and 14 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, which is believed to be allowable. Hence, Claims 3-11, 13 and 14 are believed to be allowable.

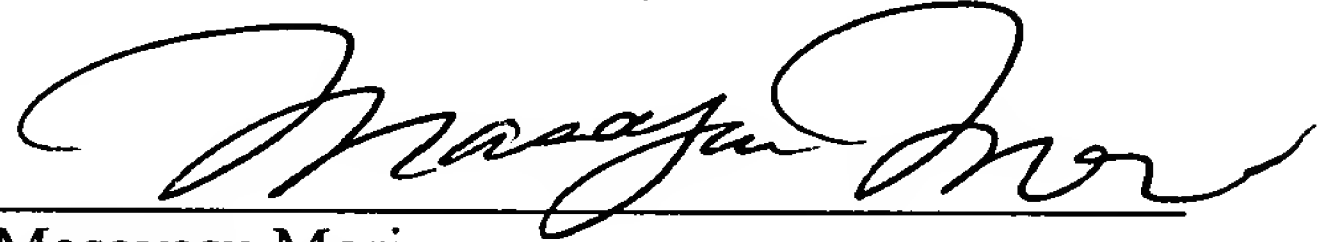
Application No. 09/345,755

Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

In view of the amendments, and in view of the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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